

REMARKS

The application was originally filed with claims 1-20. In response to a first restriction requirement claims 1-14 were elected for prosecution without traverse. In response to the first Office Action new claims 21-26 were added. In response to the current restriction requirement, claims 7-9 and 11-13 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-14 and 21-26 are pending and at issue.

Response to Restriction Requirement

In the current restriction requirement the pending claims were restricted into two groups consisting of Group I (claims 1-6 and 21-26) and Group II (claims 7-14). The restriction requirement states that the Groups are related as combination and subcombination. The restriction requirement further states that the inventions of the Groups are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations.

Applicant has amended independent claim 7 such that the combination requires the particulars of the subcombination thereby making the restriction improper. See M.P.E.P. § 806.05(c) I. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Provisional Election

Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I including claims 1-6 and 21-26 for continued examination.

Conclusion

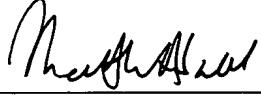
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. Additionally, if in the opinion of the examiner a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Dated: February 10, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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